Who Chose Who?

> **According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**
> **Ephesians 1:4-6 (KJV)**

Some Christians wrestle with unifying the two seemingly opposed concepts of election and free will. Simply put the question is, "How can I have a completely free will and still have been chosen by God?" Whether we call it predestination, predetermination or the "election of the saints" the question is the same: Do we choose God or does He choose us?

> **For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ**
> **Jude 1:4 (KJV)**

Let me ask the married people, did you choose your spouse or did they choose you? They both choose each other! The Bridegroom chose us to be His and we mutually chose Him! It is simple, yet profound as it always seems to be with spiritual matters. Those who are His were chosen from the foundation of the world. Yet many stumble here, "How can this be?" they ask, "How can I have a perfectly free will and still have been chosen from before time?"

> **So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.**
> **Matthew 20:16 (KJV)**

The error here is in depending on information that is simply not available to us; it is saying we were chosen from before the foundation of the earth without such knowledge. Only God knows for certain who was chosen but that shouldn't hinder us, because we should certainly believe we are amongst the chosen by faith and act accordingly.

> **And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.**
> **Matthew 10:22 (KJV)**

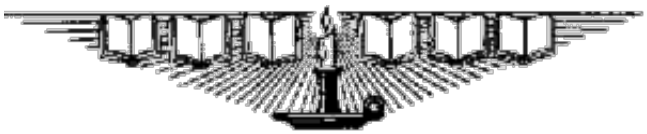
How our free wills fit in to this story is actually pretty simple to understand in concept but often difficult to fathom in action. The key here is in understanding that God is omniscient; and in so being He not only chose us, but knew who would ultimately choose Him and not falter, but would endure to the end. He doesn't force any to serve Him, but just as He knew us and wrote our names in the Lamb's book from the foundation of the earth He knew then who would choose Him.

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.
Revelation 3:5 (KJV)

The obvious assumption we can make from this scripture is that names can and presumably will be removed from the Lamb's book! How can anyone honestly cling to the "Once Saved, Always Saved" apostasy in light of this scripture? You can't!

For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
Matthew 25:29-30 (KJV)

Some think that by simply believing they are the elect that then they become the elect. This is just not true; we must endure to the end in the faith and be profitable servants. Take this as straight from the Holy Spirit; some are seeking a marriage of convenience with the Bridegroom, but He will have neither a whore nor a frigid bride.

By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?
Song of Solomon 3:1-3 (KJV)

There is also another concept at work here; one that God has been showing me about a lot recently but is not often spoken of. The marriage allegory is no accident for ours is a mutual relationship. If we have the right relationship with the Bridegroom we are often the pursuers of spiritual intimacy in the relationship. As they say "It takes two to Tango". This concept is lost on so many of those who call themselves by His name but spiritually speaking are frigid. Do you pursue Christ with the joy and urgency of a lover? Or do you spend weeks and months without having spiritual intimacy with Him?